of rice, Government have issued a notification controlling the sale and movement of tapioca. Government will themselves purchase all tapioca not required by the growers for consumption.

Rationing has now been introduced everywhere except in the isolated Chittur Taluk where it will be brought into force in a few days time. Thanks to the general co-operation of the public and the good work done, in particular, by the school teachers, this country-wide rationing scheme has been successfully launched. The scheme in general is working smoothly. Grain purchase has also in general progressed satisfactorily. Many landlords and cultivators have shown their public spirit by co-operating willingly.

Vigorous action is being taken against profiteers, hoarders and smugglers. I may say for the information of the House that the number of prosecutions so far launched is far greater than that given today in answer to a question. The large number of prosecutions reveals the regrettable fact that there is still a certain number of people in the State prepared to exploit the difficult situation for their own illicit profit. The general public can do much to stop these practices, not only by reporting cases to the authorities, but also by socially ostracising these enemies of societies.

We are passing through an anxious period but I am confident that we will pull through. We rely on help from the Government of India and from administrations in other parts of the country more fortunately placed than ourselves. But we rely most of all on the whole hearted support and co-operation so willingly given by the vast majority of the people of the State and their leaders, prominent among whom are the Hon'ble Members of this House, who can do much in their constituencies to help the people to weather the storm.

Ruling on Point of order

I have also to give a ruling on a point of order raised yesterday with regard to the right of speech of Hon'ble Members at the third reading. I give the following ruling regarding the same. Under Standing Order No. 23 Hon'ble Members have got a right to speak on the motion when called upon by the President and this is in accordance with the practice prevailing here as well as elsewhere. But I may say that the speeches at the third reading may not be so elaborate as that of the second reading.

Announcement of the name of the Members elected to the Irrigation Board

Mr. President: I announce the nomination of Mr. Kunhirama Menon as being elected as a member to the Irrigation Board since his is the only nomination received.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT BILL

The Cochin Village Courts Bill—*(cont.)*

Clause 2

Mr. K. Narayana Monon *(Mulakunnathuakvu):* Sir, clause 2 as it stands reads thus.—"*All suits pending in the Village Panchayat Courts or Group Panchayat Courts at the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been instituted in the Village Court having jurisdiction under this Act, and all decrees passed by such Panchayat or Group Panchayat Court may be executed under the provisions hereinafter cantained relating to execution of decrees passed under this Act as if they were decrees passed by the respective village courts*". This clause is sought to be substituted by a new clause 2. The new clause is the following.—"*2(1) All suits and proceedings commenced in the Village Panchayat Courts or Group Panchayat Courts prior to the date of coming into force of this Act shall be continued and depend in the Village Court having jurisdiction under this Act as if they had commenced in such Village Court after such date.*

(2) All such decrees passed by the Panchayat or Group Panchayat Courts and all proeedings in respect of any decree or order passed by such courts may be executed or commenced in the respective Village Courts as if such decrees or orders were passed by the respective Village Courts.".

The amended clause seeks to divide the original clause which comprised both suits, decrees and executions in one and the same clause into two different sub-clauses. The first sub-clause relates to suits and proceedings and the second to decrees and executions. If this is not done it may sometimes lead to confusion. There is absolutely nothing new. I beg to move that the amendment may be accepted.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon *(Trichur North):* I second the amendment.

Mr. M. K. Devassy *(Adur):* May I know what is meant by the term 'depend in' in clause (1) of the amendment.

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